

Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (cancelled).

21. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for facilitating an auction of a travel service comprising:

~~receiving, at a travel reservations database, a user profile comprising rules;~~

~~storing, at said travel reservations database, a consumer itinerary comprising reserved travel arrangements with a first vendor, wherein said consumer itinerary is associated with said rules, wherein said travel reservations database comprises consumer itineraries;~~

compiling, at a travel reservations database, a first user profile based on first consumer rules defined by a first consumer, wherein said first consumer rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;

storing said first user profile in said reservations database;

compiling, at said travel reservations database, a first organization profile based on first organization rules defined by a first organization, wherein said first organization rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;

storing said first organization profile in said reservations database;

compiling, at a travel reservations database, a second user profile based on second consumer rules defined by a second consumer, wherein said second consumer rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;

storing said second user profile in said reservations database;

compiling, at said travel reservations database, a second organization profile based on second organization rules defined by a second organization, wherein said second organization rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;

storing said second organization profile in said reservations database;

establishing, via said travel reservations database, a network connection with a plurality of Customer Reservations Systems, wherein one of said plurality of Customer Reservations Systems was used to book travel reservations to create one of a plurality of consumer itineraries;

analyzing, via said travel reservations database, said plurality of consumer itineraries stored at said plurality of Customer Reservations Systems to identify similar itineraries, wherein said similar itineraries include a similar departure time, similar arrival time, similar airport pair, similar class, and similar seating, and wherein said similar itineraries comprise reserved travel arrangements with a first vendor;

retrieving, at said travel reservations database, said first user profile and said first organization profile corresponding to a first itinerary, wherein said first itinerary is one of said similar itineraries;

retrieving, at said travel reservations database, said first user profile and said first organization profile corresponding to a second itinerary, wherein said second itinerary is one of said similar itineraries;

comparing, at said travel reservations database, said first consumer rules and said first organization rules relating to said first itinerary to said second consumer rules and said second organization rules relating to said second itinerary to determine when said first itinerary and said second itinerary match within a predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules;

grouping, at said travel reservations database, said first itinerary and said second itinerary to create a subset of consumer itineraries;

retrieving, from said travel reservations database, a said subset of said consumer itineraries, wherein said subset comprises a plurality of said consumer itineraries having similar associated said rules;

providing, via said travel reservations database, said subset of consumer itineraries to a vendor offering a travel service;

accepting, at said travel reservations database, a bid from said vendor to provide said travel service to ~~consumers~~ said first consumer and said second consumer associated with said subset of said consumer itineraries based on an ability of said vendor to accommodate within a ~~consumer defined~~ said predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules threshold of said rules of said subset;

verifying, at said travel reservations database, that said bid is in accordance with said rules said predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules;

confirming, at said travel reservations database, that said bid is an optimum bid; and, modifying a second subset of said plurality of itineraries of said subset of consumer itineraries to include said travel arrangements with a second different vendor according to said bid, wherein said second subset of consumer itineraries does not include said second different vendor.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising notifying, via said travel reservations database, at least one of: said first consumer and said second consumer of said optimum bid.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said confirming step comprises determining when said bid provides optimum savings for at least one of: said first consumer and said second consumer.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said verifying step comprises evaluating said bid based on a proposed price and a proposed provision of said travel service.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said storing step comprises storing in said travel reservations database a deviation to said first consumer defined purchase rules and said second consumer rules.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said storing step comprises storing in said travel reservations database a restriction upon a deviation from at least one of: said first consumer rules, said second consumer rules, said first organization rules, and said second organization rules.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said travel service comprises at least one of an airline reservation, automobile rental reservation, and hotel reservation.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said retrieving step comprises scanning said travel reservations database to determine rows of said consumer information with a similar at least one of said first consumer rules, second consumer rules, said first organization

rules, and said second organization rules, placing said rows of a similar at least one of said first consumer rules, second consumer rules, said first organization rules, and said second organization rules into said subset of said consumer itineraries, wherein said travel reservations database comprises a plurality of rows.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein an individual row of said rows is placed into a plurality of said subsets subset of said consumer itineraries.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said rows are similar when at least one of said first consumer rules, said second consumer rules, said first organization rules, and said second organization rules differ by less than a predetermined criteria.

Claim 31 (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising the steps of:

~~receiving, at a travel reservations database, a user profile comprising rules;~~

~~storing, at said travel reservations database, a consumer itinerary comprising reserved travel arrangements with a first vendor, wherein said consumer itinerary is associated with said rules, wherein said travel reservations database comprises consumer itineraries;~~

~~compiling, at a travel reservations database, a first user profile based on first consumer rules defined by a first consumer, wherein said first consumer rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;~~

~~storing said first user profile in said reservations database;~~

~~compiling, at said travel reservations database, a first organization profile based on first organization rules defined by a first organization, wherein said first organization rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;~~

~~storing said first organization profile in said reservations database;~~

~~compiling, at a travel reservations database, a second user profile based on second consumer rules defined by a second consumer, wherein said second consumer rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;~~

~~storing said second user profile in said reservations database;~~

compiling, at said travel reservations database, a second organization profile based on second organization rules defined by a second organization, wherein said second organization rules relate to departure time, arrival time, airport pair, class, and seating;

storing said second organization profile in said reservations database;

establishing, via said travel reservations database, a network connection with a plurality of Customer Reservations Systems, wherein one of said plurality of Customer Reservations Systems was used to book travel reservations to create one of a plurality of consumer itineraries;

analyzing, via said travel reservations database, said plurality of consumer itineraries stored at said plurality of Customer Reservations Systems to identify similar itineraries, wherein said similar itineraries include a similar departure time, similar arrival time, similar airport pair, similar class, and similar seating, and wherein said similar itineraries comprise reserved travel arrangements with a first vendor;

retrieving, at said travel reservations database, said first user profile and said first organization profile corresponding to a first itinerary, wherein said first itinerary is one of said similar itineraries;

retrieving, at said travel reservations database, said first user profile and said first organization profile corresponding to a second itinerary, wherein said second itinerary is one of said similar itineraries;

comparing, at said travel reservations database, said first consumer rules and said first organization rules relating to said first itinerary to said second consumer rules and said second organization rules relating to said second itinerary to determine when said first itinerary and said second itinerary match within a predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules;

grouping, at said travel reservations database, said first itinerary and said second itinerary to create a subset of consumer itineraries;

retrieving, from said travel reservations database, a ~~said~~ subset of said consumer itineraries, wherein ~~said~~ subset comprises a plurality of ~~said consumer itineraries having similar associated said rules;~~

providing, via said travel reservations database, said subset of consumer itineraries to a vendor offering a travel service;

accepting, at said travel reservations database, a bid from said vendor to provide said travel service to ~~consumers~~ said first consumer and said second consumer associated with said subset of said consumer itineraries based on an ability of said vendor to accommodate within a ~~consumer defined~~ said predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules threshold of said rules of said subset;

verifying, at said travel reservations database, that said bid is in accordance with said ~~rules~~ said predefine threshold defined within said first consumer rules, said first organization rules, said second consumer rules, and said second organization rules;

confirming, at said travel reservations database, that said bid is an optimum bid; and,

modifying a second subset ~~of said plurality of itineraries~~ of said subset of consumer itineraries to include said travel arrangements with a second different vendor according to said bid, wherein said second subset of consumer itineraries does not include said second different vendor.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said first consumer rules and said second consumer rules include at least two of price, scheduling preferences, departure airport, destination airport, departure date, departure time, arrival data, arrival time, seating preferences, and special accommodations.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said first organization rules and said second organization rules include restrictions relating to at least two of price, scheduling preferences, departure airport, destination airport, departure date, departure time, arrival data, arrival time, seating preferences, and special accommodations.

Claim 35-36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein reserved travel arrangements comprise at least one of contractually obligated and booked travel reservations.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said second different vendor more closely matches at least one of: said first consumer rules, said second consumer rules, said first organization rules, and said second organization rules.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said second subset of said plurality of itineraries of said subset of consumer itineraries is not modified when said second different vendor does not provide said optimum bid.